



AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

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Egypt Embarked On Risky Course

**Nasser Is Strengthening Ties
That Link His Land to
The Soviet Union**

SHIPS are moving up and down Egypt's Suez Canal in unending processions this winter. More vessels are using the waterway than ever before.

Long, low tankers laden with Middle East oil go northward bound for the Mediterranean Sea and the ports of western Europe. Heading southward through the "big ditch" are freighters with cargoes of machinery and other manufactured goods intended for Asian and Pacific countries.

The heavy flow of traffic is the latest development in a story that has attracted global attention over the past 2 years. That story is the changing status of the Suez Canal.

In the summer of 1956, Egypt seized control of this vital waterway. For years it had been owned by a private company in which the British and French had sizable interests.

Egypt's seizure of the canal was followed a few months later by a British and French armed conflict with the Middle Eastern country. (Israel also was at war with Egypt.) When the fighting took place, Egypt blocked the canal with sunken ships.

Shortly after hostilities began, the countries involved agreed to a cease-fire under UN leadership. But the important waterway, connecting the Mediterranean and Red Seas, was knocked out of commission.

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THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. Left to right: General Thomas White, Air Force; General Maxwell Taylor, Army; General Nathan Twining, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs; Admiral Arleigh Burke, Navy; and General Randolph Pate, Marines.

Changes in U. S. Defense Setup?

**Reorganization in Department of Defense to Speed Over-all Planning
And Development of Missiles Is Urged by Some and Opposed by Others**

SHOULD the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines be banded into one military service, with one uniform and one over-all commander?

Such a proposal is being talked about today as our nation seeks ways to speed defenses against the growing might of the Soviet Union, with her missiles and space sputniks.

A single uniform and a single armed service are unlikely, at least in the near future. Army, Navy, and the Marine Corps trace their history back to the very beginnings of our nation. So does the Coast Guard. Mainly a safety-at-sea patrol service under the Department of the Treasury in time of peace, the Coast Guard becomes a branch of the Navy in time of war.

The Air Force is comparatively new, but it has colorful traditions along with the other armed services. None of these proud groups wants to give up completely its identity.

Nevertheless, very serious consideration is being given to the idea of a single top officer to direct defense planning for all the military services. Also under study are proposals to group air, land, and sea forces under one command for certain special missions in an effort to promote unity and end service rivalries.

Numerous serious-minded Americans, some of them military men, feel that we aren't doing the job and that we need to reorganize our defense planning. Unless we act speedily to catch up in the missiles race, advo-

cates of reorganization predict, Russia may surpass the free world in over-all armed strength (missiles plus other weapons) within 2 years.

Other U. S. citizens, also including defense experts, doubt that the Russians are very far ahead of us in the missile field. They may even be behind us in the over-all race, it is argued. This group does not think that we need reorganization of the armed services. It does agree, however, that we need to step up our defense program.

Congressional committees are now studying our defense problems in detail. Congress seems ready to grant billions of dollars in new funds for additional armaments, chiefly missiles.

Congress may also decide to change the organization of our defense setup in an effort to add new efficiency and speed to military planning. There is some strong opposition in Congress to such a change, though, and sharp debate is likely before any final decision is made.

During most of our national history, the Army and Navy (which includes the Marine Corps) have operated independently of each other—under, of course, general direction by the President as Commander in Chief of all armed forces.

Congress set up the Department of War in 1789, and for 9 years it was responsible for both Army and Naval affairs. Congress separated the 2 services in 1798, by establishing the Department of the Navy and by limiting the War Department to direction of the Army.

Both service departments were headed by secretaries, and these men were members of the President's Cabinet. The 2 services cooperated with each other in certain fields, especially in time of war. Navy, for example, bombarded the French coast to help prepare for Army troop landings during the World War II invasion of

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HERE AND ABROAD - - - PEOPLE, PLACES, AND EVENTS

AMERICANS IN BRUSSELS

Some 300 young Americans, between the ages of 19 and 25, will work at the World's Fair in Brussels, Belgium, later this year. They will serve as ushers and guides at the U. S. exhibit. In addition, they will be ambassadors of good will for Uncle Sam and show the world just what young people from the United States are like. The governors of all 48 states, Puerto Rico, Alaska, and Hawaii will choose the young Americans.

NEW GERMAN ARMY

West Germany now has some 125,000 men under arms, as compared with about 68,000 at the same time last year. Free Europe's defense plans call for a West German force of around 500,000 men in the years to come.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIPS

More than 180 congressmen, out of a total membership of 531, traveled

abroad last year. They visited such remote places as Antarctica and U. S. bases near the North Pole. They also took a first-hand look at our programs for providing other lands with technical and economic aid.

TOP SOVIET WOMAN

Whenever Russia's high-ranking leaders meet in Moscow, there is almost always a woman present. She is Mrs. Ekaterina Furtseva, 47, a member of the Soviet Union's small body of top leaders who govern Russia with an iron hand. Mrs. Furtseva was recently given additional duties as assistant to Russia's Communist Party boss Nikita Khrushchev.

LAWMAKERS ON TV

A number of the nation's lawmakers are becoming TV stars, at least within their election districts. More and more legislators are making special filmed speeches in which they report on their activities, and showing them

to TV viewers in their home states. Studios for filming speeches are located right on Capitol Hill.

AIR ACADEMY GROWS

The U. S. Air Force Academy, established in 1954 to train leaders of our air arm, is nearing completion. By next fall, 1,200 cadets will be able to move into the new buildings near Colorado Springs, Colorado. When all structures now planned or begun are finished, there will be room for 2,500 cadets. At present, Air cadets are attending classes in temporary schools in the Colorado Springs area.

UNUSUAL ACTION

When Japan's Premier Nobusuke Kishi visited the capitals of nearby Asian lands for trade talks not long ago, he did an unusual thing for a head of state. He publicly apologized to the government and people of each land he visited for Japanese attacks during World War II.

Nasser's Egypt

(Continued from page 1)

For some 5 months, not a ship passed through the canal. During this time, a United Nations team was hard at work, clearing it. It was reopened last April. Today about 47 ships a day are using the waterway as compared to 42 a day in the months before Egypt seized the canal.

Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser points to the operation of the canal as evidence that his country is making good progress in its ambitious program to become a modern nation. The fact is, though, that its success in reopening the waterway has not yet been matched in many other areas.

Certainly Egypt has a long way to go before it becomes the strong, up-to-date country which Nasser hopes for. It faces staggering problems, both at home and in its relations with other lands. There are serious unanswered questions about the leadership of Nasser and the course he is following.

Land and people. Occupying the northeastern corner of Africa, the ancient land of Egypt is approximately the size of Texas and Arizona combined. A small part of Egypt—that section east of the Suez Canal—lies in Asia. Known as the Sinai Peninsula, it borders the nation of Israel.

The world's largest and hottest desert—extending all the way across North Africa—covers 95 per cent of Egypt. For the most part, the vast, reddish desert is uninhabited.

The country's 24,500,000 people are almost all crowded into the long, narrow valley of the Nile River or into the sprawling delta at the river's mouth. This vital waterway extends for almost 1,000 miles through Egypt's sandy wastes.

The fertile valley—about 12 miles wide—is one of the world's most thickly settled regions. In places, there are 1,500 people per square mile. (In the United States, average population density is about 57 per square mile.)

Most of the valley's residents are poor Moslem farm workers, known as *fellahin*. They live in windowless huts of sun-baked mud, and devote a lifetime of toil to cultivating small plots. Many still plow the fields with a pointed stick drawn by oxen, as their ancestors did thousands of years ago.

In cities like Cairo and Alexandria, people live more as Europeans do. But throughout the country as a whole, average income per person is only about \$100 a year as compared to almost \$2,000 in the United States.

The resulting poverty breeds sick-

ness and disease. The average life span is about 40 as compared to nearly 70 in America. Egypt's death rate, although recently lowered, is still extremely high.

Nasser's program. Improving the lot of the Egyptian people was one of the announced goals of Gamal Nasser when he came into power in 1952. An Army colonel, he was one of a number of officers who seized control of the government. The group was highly dissatisfied with the corrupt way that Egypt was being governed under pleasure-loving King Farouk.

The Nasser government can today cite a number of solid achievements aimed at raising living standards. It has built medical clinics and vocational training centers in more than 250 country villages. It has constructed almost 250 new schools a year—as compared to 3 in Farouk's last year as ruler.

A number of land-reform measures have been carried out. The tremendous estates belonging to Farouk have been broken up and distributed to landless *fellahin*. Some 70,000 heads of families have received plots of their own.

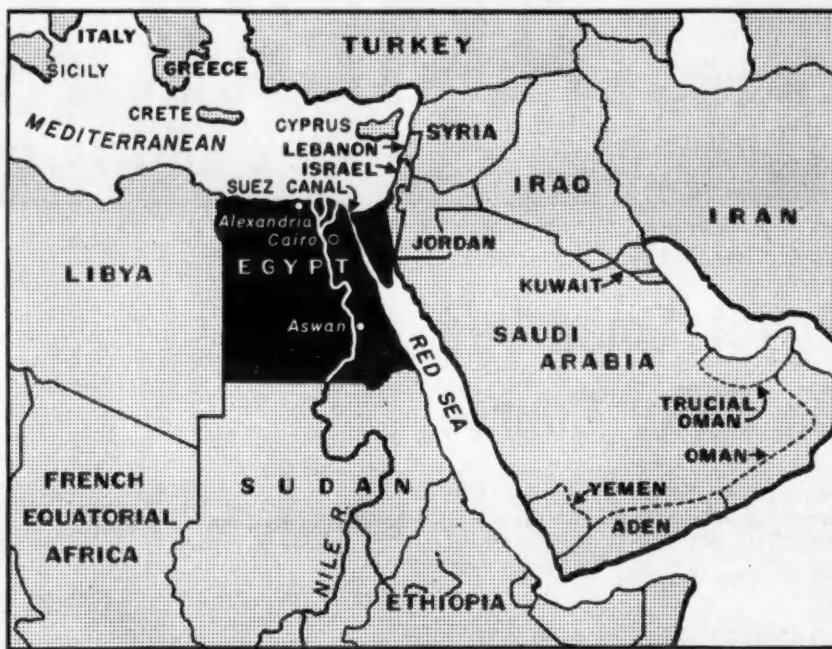
The new government has also tried to promote the growth of industries. Limited progress has been made. A big steel mill has gone up near Cairo, and a huge fertilizer plant is scheduled to go into operation about 1960.

Perhaps the biggest barrier to industrialization is a shortage of power. The country lacks coal, and doesn't have enough oil to meet present needs. In this field, Egypt is pinning its hopes on increased water power.

Aswan Dam. The key to Nasser's goal of making Egypt a powerful nation is the proposed high dam at Aswan, 400 miles south of Cairo. If built, the structure will be the greatest dam that the world has ever seen. Its reservoir—350 miles long—will provide water for irrigating 2,000,000 acres of cropland. The dam will increase Egypt's electric output 5 times.

The cost of the dam is estimated at more than 1.3 billion dollars. Nasser claims that the construction can be financed by profits from operation of the Suez Canal. Despite what he says, most observers feel that it will take much more than the Suez Canal receipts to build the dam on the 10-year schedule now planned.

Moreover, it is widely felt that successful completion of the dam may not go far toward solving Egypt's problem of low living standards. The country's population is increasing rapidly. By the time the Aswan Dam is finished, the added acreage of farm land made available by it will be barely enough—it is said—to support the population increase.



EGYPT stands at the spot where Asia meets Africa, and where the Red Sea approaches the Mediterranean. With 386,000 square miles, it is about as large as Texas and Arizona combined. Population is approximately 24,500,000.

Disturbing events. World opinion was generally in sympathy with Nasser and his colleagues when they took over the government. The new leadership, it was thought, represented a distinct improvement over King Farouk.

Events of the past few years, though, have seen much of the good will that was felt toward Egypt's new leaders ebb away. These events include Nasser's seizure of the Suez Canal, his resistance to negotiating the refugee problem and other differences with Israel, his continued propaganda against the western nations, and his increasing cooperation with Russia.

Recently, political parties were abolished. Nasser and his army colleagues operate the government as a dictatorship.

Even though the Suez Canal is in operation once more, it is still a troublesome issue. For one thing, the former owners of the canal have not yet been paid in any way by Egypt for its seizure of their property. United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld recently conferred with Nasser on this issue, and indicated that a settlement might be achieved before long. Until it is, there will be continued friction over the matter.

Dispute with Israel. Still another unsettled part of the Suez issue is the right of Israel to send its ships through the waterway. While the canal is supposed to be open to the ships of all nations, Egypt refuses to allow passage for Israeli vessels.

This stand is, of course, but one aspect of Egypt's long dispute with Israel. In 1948, Egypt supported the

Arabs of Palestine in trying to crush the new nation of Israel. Unsuccessful in their attempt, Egypt and the other Arab lands have refused to have anything to do with the Jewish nation. Large numbers of the Arab refugees who fled Palestine 10 years ago are still living in camps in Egypt's Gaza Strip. They are supported by the UN.

Since 1948, there have been raids and shootings along the Egyptian-Israeli frontier. It was to discourage raids from Egypt—the Israelis said—that led them to launch an attack into the Sinai Peninsula in 1956. The United Nations helped to stop that conflict, but tension continues.

Nasser says that the troubles with Israel can't be settled until that country permits the refugees to return and compensates them for their losses. On the other hand, Israel points out that Egypt refuses to sit down at the conference table to talk over these and other issues. Therefore, the stalemate goes on.

Arab leadership. Many critics of Nasser feel that he does not want to reach any agreement with Israel. One of his goals is to make Egypt the unquestioned leader of the Arab world. Today, a common enmity for Israel is the main point upon which Arab lands see eye to eye.

Nasser has met with considerable resistance in trying to assert Egypt's leadership among the Arab countries. He has not received the support he desires from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, or Jordan. Because Jordan refuses to follow Egypt's leadership, Nasser has tried to bring about the downfall of King Hussein. So far, the Egyptian leader has been unsuccessful.

Only with Syria has Egypt established a really close relationship. The 2 countries have a joint military command, and are cooperating in other ways. Syria has close bonds with the Soviet Union.

Turning to Russia. Western leaders are concerned about growing Russian influence in Egypt, even though Nasser claims he is neutral in the conflict between the free world and the communist nations. By backing Egypt and other Arab lands, Moscow hopes it can get a foothold in the oil-rich Middle East.

When Britain, France, and Israel were at war with Egypt in 1956, Russia threatened to send troops to Nasser's aid. The Soviet Union has sold

SHIPPING THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL

**BEFORE
NATIONALIZATION**



DAILY AVERAGE

**OCT. 29, 1956 TO
APRIL 10, 1957**

**NONE
CANAL BLOCKED**

DECEMBER 1957



DAILY AVERAGE

SUEZ CANAL TRAFFIC is now heavier than it was before the Egyptian government seized the waterway in 1956

millions of dollars' worth of communist weapons to Egypt. Recently it promised a large loan to the Middle Eastern land.

On the other hand, western influence in Egypt has been on the decline. Since the Suez seizure and the invasion of Egypt a few months later, relations between the Middle Eastern country and Britain and France have been strained.

Even though the United States brought pressure to bear on its allies to stop the conflict with Egypt, our nation received little credit from Nasser for doing so. In fact, the Nasser regime has been highly critical of us ever since we—along with Britain—turned down Egypt's request in 1956 for a big loan to help build the Aswan Dam. (Angry at the U. S. and British decision, Nasser retaliated by seizing the Suez Canal.)

The Egyptian leader has strongly condemned the Eisenhower Doctrine, whereby we offered to help Middle Eastern lands requesting our aid.

U. S. and Egypt. Can we keep Egypt from falling under Soviet control? If so, how?

Some Americans think we have the opportunity to check Nasser's swing toward Russia. They say:

"Nasser's cooperation with Russia has been purely for the aid he can get from the Soviet Union. He is personally no communist, and takes vigorous action against Egyptian Reds. Moreover, it is plain that in recent weeks he has instructed the government-controlled press in Cairo to soft-pedal its criticism of the United States. It's reasonable to think that



GAMAL ABDEL NASSER
President of Egypt

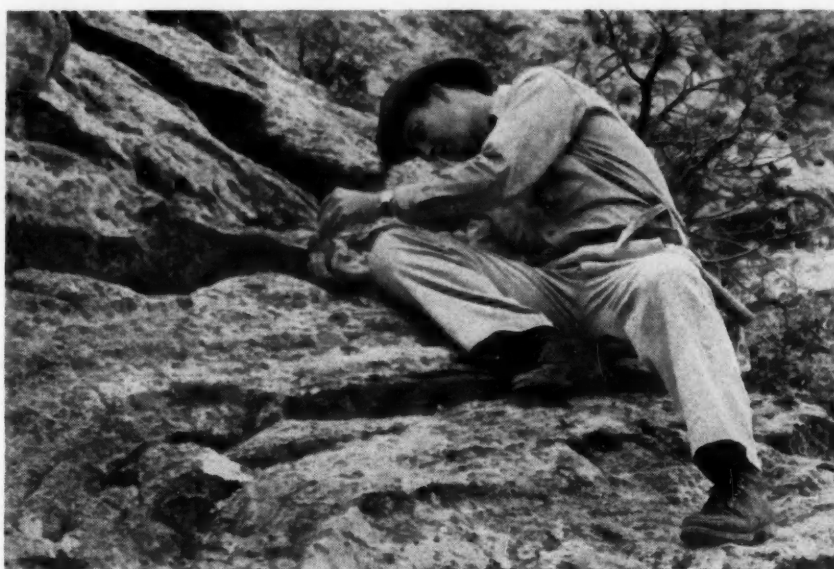
he might be receptive to a friendly approach on our part.

"Certainly we should make that approach. If Russia gets control of Egypt, she will have taken a big step toward bringing the whole Middle East and Africa under the communist system. It might even be to our advantage to reconsider our decision in connection with the Aswan Dam. The best way to keep Egypt from falling under Moscow's control is to help her wholeheartedly in raising living standards."

Others think it would be unwise as well as futile for us to make a new approach to Egypt at this time. They argue:

"While it is probably true that Nasser is not sold on communism, he foolishly thinks he can work closely with Russia without letting his country come under Red domination.

"Unfortunately, Egypt's trade is already mostly with communist lands, and Nasser is deeply in debt to Red countries. Egypt swarms with Soviet



GEOLOGIST checking the dip, or slope, of a rock formation in Montana

A Career for Tomorrow

Jobs for Geologists

GEOLGY is the largest field of employment in the branch of science dealing with the study of our planet and its surrounding atmosphere. Others in this group are geophysics and meteorology. In general, the geologist studies the structure of rocks and other materials that make up the earth's crust.

If you choose this career and you go to work for a petroleum or mining company, you are likely to spend a large part of your time working out-of-doors. You will drill deep holes into the ground or collect rock specimens in your search for oil or minerals. From time to time, you may make extensive laboratory tests of geological specimens in an effort to find out if a particular region holds any promise of underground wealth.

Geologists usually specialize in some branch of the science. *Economic geologists* seek out and develop mineral resources. *Petroleum geologists* locate and dig for oil and natural gas deposits. *Engineering geologists* are concerned with the application of geological knowledge to the solution of engineering problems. They may, for instance, select a suitable site for building a new hydroelectric dam.

Certain other geologists are chiefly concerned with adding to our knowledge of the earth's past history. These include: *Paleontologists*, who identify and classify the fossils of animals and plants of past ages; *geomorphologists*, who study the earth's surface and try to find out how it has been changing over the years; *structural geologists*, who study the make-up of rocks and

technicians and other Moscow representatives. Under these conditions, it would be utterly useless at this time to try to swing Nasser's allegiance to us.

"To offer now to give the aid we once denied would be a surrender on our part—nothing more than an offer to 'buy' Egyptian friendship. Even if Nasser accepted our offer, he might not stick with us later. Furthermore, cultivating Nasser would weaken our ties with Britain, France, and Israel. To keep the Arab world from falling to the Reds, we'll be wiser to promote friendship with such lands as Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq than to focus our attention on Egypt."

—By HOWARD SWEET

try to learn about the natural forces which produced them.

Qualifications. You need a special aptitude for mathematics, physics, and other sciences for success in this field. You should also have an analytical mind—the ability to make detailed observations, organize them logically, and draw conclusions from them.

Preparation. Take a college preparatory course in high school with particular emphasis on the sciences. You should then plan on going to college.

Like other scientists, geologists with advanced degrees get the best jobs. In fact, many firms employ only persons who have an advanced degree in this field. An M.A. takes 1 or 2 years, and a Ph. D. takes 3 to 4 years beyond the regular 4-year college course to complete.

Job opportunities. There are many more job openings than there are trained persons to fill them just now, and the employment outlook is rosy.

Many geologists work for petroleum and mining companies. Others work for construction firms or for industrial plants of various kinds. Still others are employed by Uncle Sam, non-profit research organizations, and by colleges and universities. A few geologists who have had long experience set up offices and act as consultants for industries that need their services.

While geology is primarily a vocation for men, a number of women have gone into it. They usually teach or do laboratory work.

Earnings. A beginning geologist with only 4 years of college study usually receives over \$400 a month. Starting salaries for persons with advanced degrees are higher. The average income of geologists throughout the country is around \$7,500 a year, though some of them earn \$10,000 or more annually.

Advantages and disadvantages. Work in this field combines stimulating mental work with outdoor activity. Also, the earnings are good and there are excellent opportunities for advancement.

But it generally requires hard work—mental and physical—to do the jobs assigned to you.

Further information. Write to the American Geological Institute, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington 25, D.C. —By ANTON BERLE

Earning the Right

By Clay Coss

THE following letter was written by Maude Betterton of Fort Myers, Florida, to the readers' column of the *Christian Science Monitor*. The question she raises is a challenging one to American students. She says:

"I believe the failure of our high schools to graduate better educated students is due largely to existing laws of compulsory attendance. I wholeheartedly believe in providing free secondary education for all who wish to be educated and who show, by their attitude and effort, that they deserve the privilege of free education. However:

"You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink. You can lead a boy to learning, but you cannot make him think.

"Many students have come to the conclusion that the whole educational setup is a conspiracy between parents and teachers for the sole purpose of keeping them where they do not want to be, doing the things they do not want to do, and thus interfering with 'their rights as free members of a free society.'

"Suppose this whole approach were changed. Suppose that somehow one had to be considered worthy to attend high school, as is the case in many lands.

"Let's pretend that a national emergency has been declared in the field of education. Now anyone who has completed the eighth grade or reached the age of fourteen need not attend school any longer; but anyone who chooses to stay must work.

Anyone who really works may continue his education at public expense almost indefinitely.

"Hundreds, even thousands, all over the nation, will suddenly drop out of school. Only those who want to study will attend. Now progress will be made at a fantastic rate.

"How long do you think it will be before the shiftless ones will discover for themselves the value of having an education and the handicap of not having one? Soon many will come trooping back, asking respectfully if they may be permitted to return to school. How different it will be for them when they come back voluntarily seeking education and earnestly striving to excel.

"Just imagine what our schools would be like and what kind of graduates we would produce if our students considered education something to be *striven for* instead of *fought off*."

Such are the opinions of Maude Betterton. What do you think of her ideas? Do you agree or disagree with them? We hope you will write your views to the letter column of this paper.

I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident; they came by work. —THOMAS A. EDISON

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Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money; it lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort. —FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



Clay Coss

The Story of the Week

Food Bank

Canada has asked all 15 North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries to study its plan for a food bank. The Canadian government gave other NATO members a brief outline of its food bank proposal not long ago, and intends to spell it out in greater detail at a meeting of the defense group next spring.

Under Canada's plan, NATO countries would store their surplus foods in Europe for emergency use in case of crop failure or war. Members of the defense organization with no food surpluses would be asked to contribute money in order to buy and distribute food supplies.

The Canadian proposal also calls for the use of surplus foods to help fight world communism. Under the plan, quantities of foods would be given to hungry people in lands outside of NATO. Because communism makes most headway among hungry, poverty-stricken people, food from NATO might help some nations resist Red penetration.

Senator Johnson

Almost every day, new stacks of papers are brought into a crowded Senate hearing room occupied by Democratic Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas. Many of these papers bear a "top secret" label, because they deal with vital defense matters.

Senator Johnson, as chairman of the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee, is



LYNDON JOHNSON, Texas Democrat, heads a Senate group that has been studying the U. S. defense program

conducting an investigation of our military programs in an effort to find ways of strengthening our defenses. Over the past few weeks, he and his group have listened to the views of top military experts and have read countless pages of facts relating to defense.

As a result of these studies, the Johnson group is suggesting a number of changes in our defense setup. One proposal calls for greater emphasis on the conquest of space. Another asks for a reorganization of our top military command (see page 1 story).

In addition to heading the important defense subcommittee, Senator Johnson is majority floor leader in the Senate. As leader of the Democratic majority in the Senate, he tries to get members of his party to work together as effectively as possible.

Johnson, who is 49, uses friendly persuasion and reasonable compromise in efforts to gain support for his views.



THE NETHERLANDS' canal network has many uses—including this one.

Friend and foe alike praise his ability in this field. Now, while seeking the adoption of his suggested changes in our defense setup, Johnson will need all the skill he can muster.

A native Texan, Johnson went to college in his home state and later to law school in Washington, D. C. He served in the House of Representatives for 11 years before entering the Senate in 1949.

Six feet, 3 inches tall, Johnson is one of the hardest-working lawmakers on Capitol Hill. Though he had to curtail some of his activities after a heart attack in 1955, he still stays on the job for as long as 14 hours a day.

Facts About Congress

How are members of Congress chosen?

Representatives are elected by direct vote of the people. This method has remained unchanged since the Constitution went into effect in 1789. If a vacancy occurs in the House because of death or resignation, it must be filled by a special election or at the next general election. The entire membership of the House is up for election every 2 years.

Senators have been elected directly by the people only since the 17th Amendment to our Constitution was adopted in 1913. Prior to that time, members of the Senate were chosen by state legislatures.

If a vacancy occurs in the Senate, it may be filled by special election, or by temporary appointment by the governor. (Most states, but not all, use the second method.) Senators are elected for 6-year terms. About a third of them are voted into office every 2 years.

Movie

A big, battle-scarred, mongrel dog, called Old Yeller, stars in a new Walt Disney Technicolor movie. Named after the dog, the film tells an exciting tale of life on the frontier of Texas in the 1860's. Old Yeller is in the thick of adventures that befall a frontier homesteading family—the Coates. On more than one occasion, the mongrel dog fights against great odds to save the life of a Coates family member.

Dorothy McGuire plays the role of Katie Coates, and Fess Parker takes the part of her husband, Jim. Their teen-age son, Travis, is played by Tommy Kirk, and Travis' younger brother, Arliss, is portrayed by Kevin Corcoran. Other members of the cast include Jeff York, Chuck Connors, and Beverly Washburn.

Communist Aid

The Reds have been stepping up their foreign aid programs ever since they first entered this field about 2½ years ago. Thus far, Russia and her satellites have promised to provide about 1½ billion dollars in overseas aid. Only a small fraction of this amount has actually been spent by the Reds. Uncle Sam, by comparison, has provided overseas countries with more than 56 billion dollars in economic and military help since World War II.

But the Soviet assistance program, according to a recent U. S. Department of State study, appears to be winning more new friends for communism than ours is winning for us. One reason for this is that we are sending the bulk of our help to countries already friendly to us, while the communists are providing assistance to so-called "neutral"

Asian and African lands. We have sent some help to these countries, but not as much as the Reds are promising to do.

Soviet assistance programs include a steel mill in India, sugar refineries in Syria and Indonesia, and a flour mill in Afghanistan. The Reds are also sending thousands of technical experts to underdeveloped lands in order to build factories and other projects there. Most of the other Soviet aid programs consist of long-term loans at low interest rates.

To help meet the growing challenge of Red competition in foreign aid, the Eisenhower Administration is asking Congress for nearly 4 billion dollars in overseas assistance this year, as compared with slightly less than 3 billion voted by the lawmakers in 1957.

We shall soon discuss foreign aid at length, including pro and con arguments, in a major article.

Egypt's Leader

"Though Egypt's President Gamal Nasser has made arms and trade deals with Russia, he dislikes communism. If given enough encouragement by the western nations, he would quickly turn his back on the Reds and line up with the free nations."

That is what an American reporter said after talking with the Egyptian President not long ago. But many other observers point out that western leaders have repeatedly tried, without too much success thus far, to cooperate with Nasser on a friendly basis (see page 1 story).

Nasser, who's just turned 40, has been a rebel most of his life. While still in his teens, he led a group of students in a riot against the British, who controlled Egypt at the time. Later, as a soldier in the Egyptian army, he made plans for a revolution to overthrow his country's government under King Farouk.

In 1952 Nasser led the army revolt which forced King Farouk to give up his throne. Two years later, the ambitious army officer became Premier of Egypt, and in 1956 he assumed the post of President as well. Since then, he has eliminated political parties and rules the country as a dictator.

Nasser rarely makes public speeches.



SCENE FROM "OLD YELLER," new Walt Disney picture. The dog Spike plays the title role, and he is shown here with Dorothy McGuire and Tommy Kirk.



NEW THUNDERBIRD, by Ford, carries 4 people. All previous Thunderbirds have been only 2-passenger models.

He lives with his wife and 4 young children in a comfortable but not elaborate home. He is reported to be popular with large numbers of Egyptians, but is unwilling to risk his leadership by permitting free elections and opposition political parties.

Europe Moves Ahead

Six countries of Western Europe—Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany—are now putting 2 plans into operation which will lead to much closer co-operation among the members. One of these plans is called the Common Market. The other is Euratom (a combination of Europe and atom).

Not long ago, the 6 nations agreed on the men who will head the 2 groups. Walter Hallstein, West German Deputy Foreign Minister, was chosen to head the Common Market. Louis Armand, director of France's government-controlled railways, will head Euratom.

Under the Common Market plan, the 6 member countries will gradually reduce trade barriers among them until these are completely abolished within 12 to 15 years. When all the obstacles to trade are removed, the 6 countries will have formed a large free-trade market in an area having more than 160,000,000 people.

The atomic agreement provides that Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany combine their atomic resources.

Modern Explorers

Antarctica has frequently made news headlines in recent months as 12 nations survey the frozen continent under the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year (IGY) program for studying our planet.

Two of the most dramatic stories to come out of the Antarctic region so far this year concern overland expeditions to the South Pole. One of these was led by New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary. The other by Britain's Dr. Vivian Fuchs.

Hillary's expedition made a trip to the South Pole from the Pacific side of Antarctica. After a brief stay at the Pole, he and his men were flown back to their base.

When Hillary reached the South Pole earlier this month, he and his men successfully completed the first overland trip to that point since 1912. Since then, the Pole has been reached a number of times by air, but not by land.

Hillary, 38, won fame in 1953 when

he and a guide from Nepal were first to scale mighty Mt. Everest—the world's highest mountain peak. Hillary was knighted by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II for his feat.

The expedition headed by Dr. Fuchs, a geologist who has been studying ice formations in the South Polar region, set out to cross the entire continent of Antarctica last month. This feat was never before undertaken by any explorer. As of writing, the Fuchs group has not yet reached its goal.

Busy Congress

The nation's lawmakers have already opened debate on some proposals made by President Eisenhower in his State of the Union message to Congress earlier this month. In his message the President called upon the country to wage "total peace" in response to the Soviet campaign of "total cold war."

The White House program includes the following proposals, a number of which are being spelled out in more detail in additional special messages to Congress:

1. Reorganize our defense setup to end inter-service disputes and to insure unity of action by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

2. Strengthen our preparedness program by providing the best possible warning system in case of attack, and the latest weapons to insure an adequate defense.

3. Provide more economic aid to other lands, with emphasis on long-term, low-interest loans. Also encourage American businessmen to extend overseas loans.

4. Make it possible for other countries to boost their trade with us by giving the President added powers to cut tariff rates on foreign goods over a 5-year period.

5. Remove existing barriers which prevent close cooperation among Allied scientists in defense research.

6. Provide scholarships and help the nation's schools improve classroom instruction and scientific research programs by adopting a 4-year federal aid-to-education plan at a cost of 1 billion dollars.

7. Provide an additional 1.3 billion dollars immediately to step up development of new weapons. Also, increase spending on missiles and related programs by 4 billion dollars during the coming year.

Finally, the President called on Russia to cooperate with us in fighting illness and poverty around the globe. The Chief Executive, moreover, called for new efforts to reach an effective global disarmament agreement, and a greater

exchange of peoples between free and communist countries.

Latin America

Russian offers of assistance as a means of winning friends for communism aren't limited to underdeveloped lands of Africa and Asia. The Reds are also making a play for our Latin American neighbors.

Moscow is now offering to help Brazil, Argentina, and other nearby countries to develop their oil deposits. The Reds say they will provide these lands with the necessary machinery and technical assistance on long-range, low-interest terms.

Soviet agents are now trying to make agreements with Brazil and Argentina to send oil-drilling equipment to those countries. If the Russian efforts are successful, Moscow will have won an important foothold on our side of the globe.

A number of Latin American oil fields now in production, such as those in Venezuela, were opened up by private American firms. But Brazil, Argentina, and certain other Latin American countries don't want their oil developed by such firms. They want to set up companies under government control for this purpose.

The United States is now trying to work out a plan for developing oil deposits in Brazil and Argentina that is acceptable to both sides. Actually, most

Latin American countries distrust the Reds and would undoubtedly prefer to deal with the United States in developing their petroleum resources if satisfactory arrangements can be made.

What Can You Do?

Is our defense program being carried out as effectively as possible? How much money should we spend for military preparedness? For the conquest of space? For foreign aid?

These are only a few of the many vital questions that face our country today. All Americans, including high school students who are still too young to vote, have the privilege and the responsibility to help shape the final decisions on these and other issues.

What can you do? You can make a thorough study of the big problems that now confront the nation. After learning the facts and weighing the pro and con arguments of others, you should come to a decision of your own.

But you should do more than acquire information—you should act on it. Make your influence felt by discussing your views with your parents and friends. In addition, you can write letters expressing your opinions to local newspapers, to members of Congress, and even to the White House.

Next Week's Articles

Unless unforeseen developments arise, the main articles next week will deal with (1) the federal budget, and (2) the role of the U. S. Secretary of State, plus pros and cons on John Foster Dulles.

Pronunciations

Aswan—äs-wön'
Dag Hammarskjöld—dä häm'mer-shult
Ekaterina Furtseva—yē-kū-tyī-rē'nū
fört'sūv-ä
Farouk—fä-rōök'
Gamal Abdel Nasser—gä-mäl' äb-dēl
näs'ēr
Gaza—gä'zuh
Hussein—hōō-sän'
Nikita Khrushchev—nyī-kē'tuh krōōsh-
chawf
Nobusuke Kishi—nō-bōō-sōō-kē kē-shē
Sinai—sī'nī

THE LIGHTER SIDE

"You mean to say you were not at your own daughter's wedding? Where were you?"

"I was out looking for a job for the groom."

★

A fanatic is one who can't change his opinion and won't change the subject.

★

Salesman: For \$2,000 will you endorse our soup?

Celebrity: For that amount I'd eat it.

★

"What's that dog worth?"

"\$300."

"Who left it to him?"

★

A man went home from a "January Clearance Sale" at a men's store wearing a new hat that made him look like an idiot. When his wife asked him how he could possibly buy such a hat, he explained:

"The salesman put it on me and when I saw myself in the mirror, I looked too stupid to argue with him."

★

Definition of junk: Something you keep for 10 years and then throw out 2 weeks before you need it.

Boastful Executive: Young man, my time is worth exactly \$100 a minute, but I believe I can give you a 10-minute interview.

Youthful Salesman: Make it 5 minutes, sir, and I'll take cash for the other 5.



"Let's face it, Lothar. Without my invention, yours is useless."



THE PENTAGON—main headquarters of our defense forces—is located in Virginia, just across the Potomac from Washington, D. C. About 30,000 people, including many high-ranking officers, work in this structure. According to the Defense Department, it is the largest office building in the world.

Debate on Plans to Reorganize Defense Command

(Continued from page 1)

Europe. In general, though, the services went their separate ways.

Reorganization to promote greater unity of the defense forces came about after the global conflict. Despite considerable opposition, Congress in 1947 set up a National Military Establishment. It was renamed Department of Defense in 1949.

The Department of Defense is headed by a Secretary, now Neil McElroy, who is a member of the President's Cabinet. The old War Department is now called the Department of the Army. The Navy Department remains. The new Department of the Air Force exists for the air service, which was under Army before 1947. All the service departments are headed by secretaries, but they are not Cabinet members.

Headquarters for all the departments is the Pentagon, a sprawling, 5-sided building in Virginia—across the Potomac River from Washington, D. C., the national capital proper. Nearly 30,000 persons work in the building. About 2/3 of these workers are civilians; the others are military.

The Defense Secretary, as top civilian official at the Pentagon, has his own staff of just over 2,000. He may call upon the service secretaries, of whom he is general director, for assistance and consultation. He depends upon the top military commanders of the services for planning defense strategy. The operation of the planners, known as the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is a main target of the supporters of reorganization.

Just exactly who are the Joint Chiefs, and how do they operate?

The Army and the Air Force are headed by generals, each known as Chief of Staff. The Navy's top admiral is Chief of Naval Operations. A general—the Commandant—directs the Navy's Marine Corps.

Several times a week, the uniformed Chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force meet as the Joint Chiefs (with the Marine Commandant acting only when his forces are concerned). The

officers are expected then to put aside individual service interests, and to concentrate on plans for over-all national defense.

A chairman, presently General Nathan Twining of the Air Force, is the only member of the Joint Chiefs without additional duties. He selects subjects for discussion, but has no vote and almost no power.

If the service officers agree, their chairman reports to the Secretary of Defense. The Secretary may accept or reject a Joint Chiefs recommendation. If they don't agree, the Secretary may make his own decision. Or



NEIL McELROY, Secretary of Defense, has tremendous responsibilities

the President himself may fix a course of action on major policy.

What changes in defense planning are under study at present?

There are several rather similar proposals. One study being widely discussed was drawn up by a group of informed businessmen, former government officials, military men, and others. Retired General Lucius Clay, who served for quite a while as commander of U. S. forces in West Germany and who helped organize its democratic republic, had a hand in the study.

The group study is known as the

Rockefeller Report, after the family which made it financially possible. Major proposals in the report follow:

1. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs should be the main military planner. He should have his own staff and be its boss. He should also be at the top of the command setup in acting for the President and the Secretary of Defense where military operations are concerned.

2. Heads of the individual services—Army, Navy, and Air Force—should remain on the Joint Chiefs *only as advisers* to the chairman and without power to make policy decisions. "Even with the best will in the world," the service chiefs often look at the military picture from the viewpoint of their special services rather than of the nation's defense needs as a whole.

The service chiefs, and their civilian superiors—Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force—should concentrate on managing their departments and on training the fighting forces.

3. High military men—those above the rank of brigadier (1-star) general or its equivalent—should become *Officers of the United States*. As such, they would form a special group expected to be able to rise above loyalties to the individual services.

4. The Secretary of Defense should hold clear and direct authority over all research projects and the development of new weapons. He should have the unquestioned right to cancel a program or to transfer it from one service to another in the interest of national defense. At present, the Secretary is "so burdened" by the task of trying to settle interservice disputes that he cannot "play his full part" in developing high military policy.

The main theme of the Rockefeller report is that "all is not well" with our military operation, and that changes in roles of the services are necessary to make best use of today's modern weapons.

How do military men and others feel about new reorganization ideas?

Admiral Arleigh Burke of the Joint

Chiefs is largely against change, as are his Navy colleagues generally. Burke feels that the services are doing a good job on missiles, and that pressure for reorganization is an "illogical reaction" by persons overly impressed by the Soviet sputniks.

Admiral Burke argues that the Joint Chiefs should remain, as now, and that even when they disagree their opinions should be considered. Then a decision should be made "by the responsible civilian officials, the Secretary of Defense, and the President of the United States. The final decision cannot be left to a single man in uniform if our Constitutional republic is to remain free."

On the civilian side in Congress, Representative Carl Vinson, Democrat of Georgia, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, defends the present Joint Chiefs system and rivalry among the services. He feels that this competition of ideas and activities is healthy.

Army men on duty now are rather cautious in taking a stand on revising our defense organization. General Maxwell Taylor of the Joint Chiefs agrees that proposals for change should be studied carefully, but he is inclined to favor the present system.

Speaking of his own job, Taylor says: "As Army Chief of Staff, I know at all times what my service can do. This knowledge guides me in helping to reach policy decisions with the other Joint Chiefs, and I think their knowledge of the services they direct also is a valuable guide for them."

A planning command in which the service chiefs aren't included would have to get its detailed knowledge indirectly, Taylor points out. Although it means a heavy load of work, he believes the service chiefs should also have a hand in the planning as Joint Chiefs.

One dissenting officer, General James Gavin, chief of the Army's research program, would end the Joint Chiefs and have a military planning group not tied to any of the services.

Gavin feels that the Army has been held back in developing a long-range missile because proper decisions could not be reached under the present system.

President Eisenhower (a World War II general), has, in the past, favored a single Chief of Staff as principal military adviser at the Pentagon. Less than a year ago, he expressed dissatisfaction with certain aspects of the defense organization under current law. The President is taking a hand in trying to settle present disputes.

The President, asserting that the American people want service rivalries stopped, plans to ask Congress for legislation authorizing changes in Department of Defense organization to increase efficiency. He also wants to step up missiles production. (See page 5 for story on President's State of the Union message to Congress.)

Within Congress, Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri and a former Secretary of the Air Force, is among those who favor changing command to achieve greater unity in defense operations. So is Senator Flanders, Republican of Vermont.

Dr. Vannevar Bush, one of our leading scientists, also wants a "central planning body" to produce a "program for the country" in place of "3 plans advocated by the 3 services." He is supported in this opinion by General James Doolittle, who organized the first U. S. air raid on Japan in 1942.

In summing up, can we come to any conclusions as to the best kind of military organization for insuring the safety of our nation?

Reaching a conclusion is difficult, since all the arguments are not yet in. We can take a brief look at where we stand now.

Army, Navy, and Air Force all are working on missiles. Until long-distance missiles are ready for use, the Air Force continues to depend on its long-range bomber fleet for striking back at an attacking enemy. Navy looks upon atomic-powered submarines with rocket weapons as a future ideal weapon both for attack at sea and against enemy bases on land. Army feels long-range missiles are logical successors to artillery for war on land.

There is, without question, competition among the services for leadership in the missile race. The question for the nation to decide is whether this competition—which we favor in sports and daily business life—is valuable or harmful in the armed forces.

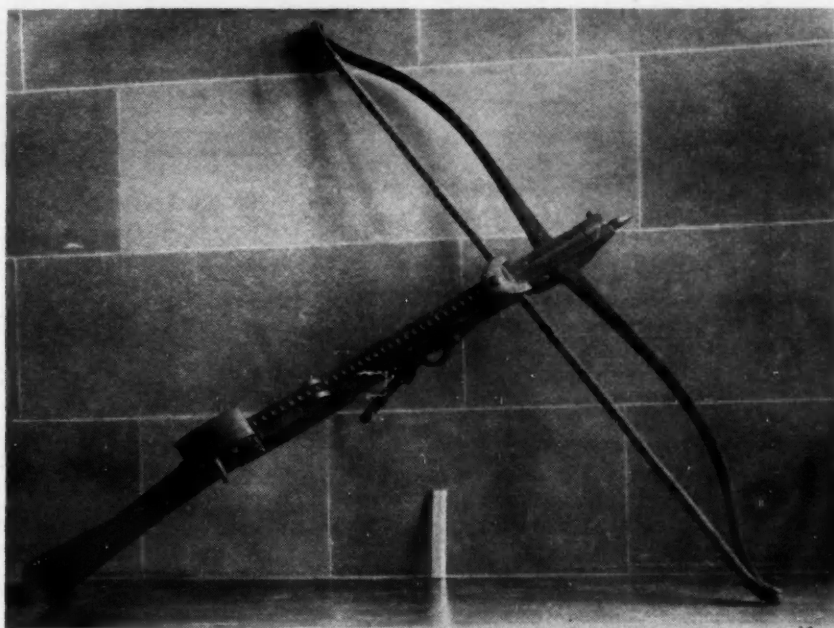
There is a quite loose, not a tight, defense organization at the Pentagon. The question to answer is whether we should put the armed services under a single command to speed planning decisions—or not do so in fear that one man might make more mistakes than several men, and such a step would lead to military power that could become dictatorial.

The future of the nation is at stake. Our true goal, after serious deliberation, should be to put the best available leaders, with the best possible organization we can devise, on the job of building the defenses we need.

—By TOM HAWKINS

Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (c) vote of the people; 2. (b) tyrannical; 3. (d) clear; 4. (a) difficult choice; 5. (b) doctrine, or ideas; 6. (a) openly; 7. (c) obedient.



THE CROSSBOW, once a major implement of war. About 8 centuries ago there were efforts to outlaw this type of weapon because of its "frightfulness."

Historical Background

IN matters of defense, the American people traditionally have insisted upon small armed forces in time of peace. The reasoning generally was that we were in no danger, that a peacetime force might gain power over the nation, and that we could save money.

We demobilized our armed forces after winning freedom from England. While we were still governed under the Articles of Confederation, Congress in 1784 turned a cool ear to requests for troops to guard sparsely settled western areas of our new country.

Elbridge Gerry, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, expressed the popular feeling of that time. "Standing armies in time of peace," he said, "are dangerous to the liberties of a free people." He felt also that such forces would be a "grievous expense."

By the time the Constitution went into effect in 1789, the U. S. Army numbered fewer than 1,000 men and the Navy had ceased to exist. Within 4 years, we were in trouble with pirates attacking our merchant ships at sea. Congress then authorized the building of 4 warships to fight the pirates.

From those early days through World War II, the United States held to the policy of building forces when necessary to win conflicts—and of cutting back forces and expenditures for armaments in time of peace.

With less money to spend, the armed services had to limit their activities. The reductions prevented the development of new weapons to some degree. In addition, our military leaders were sometimes slow to accept new machines of warfare even if they had the necessary funds.

Horses and mules, for example, were long used to pull cannon, and to transport troops and supplies in wagons. Then, in the 1900's, came the automobile. The Army tested a few trucks in 1904, but didn't care much for them. It bought 4 in 1907, but owned fewer than 5,000 when World War I began.

Once in the war, still using 4-legged animals, we began emergency building of military trucks and cars. As the first world conflict ended in 1918, we had shipped over 80,000 of the vehicles to fighting forces overseas. The motor vehicle for military purposes really came into its own during World War II, when caravans of huge trucks—

stretched out mile after mile—carried troops and supplies to battle stations on many fronts.

Inventors were working on armored vehicles in the early 1900's, but few planners foresaw the possibility of using them in warfare. French and British army planners in 1913 believed that fighting could best be carried on by equipping troops with machine guns and placing them in trenches.

Winston Churchill, the famous British Prime Minister in World War II, is credited with hastening development of the tank for World War I. Then First Lord of the Admiralty (naval secretary), he got the British navy to work secretly on the armored vehicle.

British tanks were built. They were named, it is said, in an effort to fool German spies—who might learn of them—into thinking that they were water tanks for supplying the forces.

Very possibly, the tanks turned the tide of war. They took the Germans by surprise. The U. S. Army began to build tanks after we entered World War I in 1917, but Americans played a comparatively small part in tank fighting during the conflict. With limited funds in peacetime, our Army used World War I tanks for training troops in the early 1930's. New experimental models were developed, however, so we did have plans for building as World War II got under way.

The story of the U. S. Air Force is one of the most colorful, and the one most often told to illustrate the slow development of a valuable weapon. The Wright brothers made their famous first flight in the plane they built in 1903. Four years later, the Army set up an Aeronautical Division of 1 officer and 2 men to study the "flying machine."

In 1908, the Army ordered its first military airplane from the Wright brothers. It cost \$25,000 and was paid for from a special Presidential fund. Congress didn't authorize its first grant of funds for aviation development, \$125,000, until 1911.

On the day the United States entered World War I—April 6, 1917—no Army airplane in our country had ever mounted a machine gun.

With an emergency program, we built an effective air force; but it wasn't until World War II that the plane became a major weapon.

—By TOM HAWKINS

What Our Readers Say—

In the December 9 issue of the AMERICAN OBSERVER, the question of parental discipline was raised in an editorial, "Right or Wrong." The editorial quoted from a speech by Dr. John Cavanagh, in which he advised that greater parental discipline is badly needed.

This column is devoted to readers' reactions to Dr. Cavanagh's opinions.

★

Parents need to train their children in making little decisions. It is through this instruction that boys and girls will gain the insight needed for making more important decisions in later years. I don't believe that parents should always have the final word. Families should talk over their problems in order for a good relationship to be established.

JANET WESTBROOK,
Alton, Illinois

★

The advice given to parents in the December 9 issue is good. However, if stronger discipline is applied too fast, young people will rebel and do things behind their parents' backs. Discipline should start at the beginning and be kept up.

SIERRA WOLLEN,
Bennington, Nebraska

I think the younger generation would be much better off if their parents would stand up to them, instead of just saying "Yes" to whatever they want. If teenagers would stop to think when their parents say "No," they would realize that it is usually for the best. They would also gradually understand the responsibility that parents have, and this would help them later on when they become parents themselves.

DEAN JOHNS,
Bennington, Nebraska



Some parents think their son or daughter should be the smartest in the class, a social "whiz," and excel at everything. Maybe a small percentage can, but many can't regardless of how hard they try. Parents should help their children develop their special skills.

If there is mutual respect in the family, discipline comes naturally.

JOANN WALTERS,
French Lick, Indiana

★

I think that today's parents do not spend enough time with their children. Though many would be reluctant to admit it, they have more concern for their jobs, organizations, and social life than they have for their own children. When difficulties arise, they are usually due to parents who have been either too lenient with their children or have neglected them.

HAZEL ENTZEL,
Holliday, North Dakota

★

We have also received interesting and thoughtful letters on this subject from many other students.

(Address your letters to Readers Say, AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.)

Your Vocabulary

In each of the sentences below, match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Answers are on page 7, column 1.

1. The city's future status was decided by a *plebiscite* (plēb'i-sīt). (a) court decision (b) decree of the king (c) vote of the people (d) vote of the lawmaking body.

2. All evidence showed the government to be *despotic* (dēs-pōt'ik). (a) democratic (b) tyrannical (c) popular (d) systematic.

3. The judge's ruling was *unequivocal* (ūn-ē-kwiv'ō-c'l). (a) not plain (b) different (c) lenient (d) clear.

4. The highway commission faces a *dilemma* (dī-lēm'ū) in selecting the best route. (a) difficult choice (b) great deal of criticism (c) congested area (d) long investigation.

5. The author rejected the communist *ideology* (īd-ē-ōl'ō-jī). (a) offers of pay (b) doctrine, or ideas (c) claims of superiority (d) suggestions.

6. Leaders of this political group act *overtly* (ō'vērt-lī) to achieve their aims. (a) openly (b) secretly (c) illegally (d) unpatriotically.

7. All 4 of these countries are *subservient* (sūb-sir'vī-ēnt) to Russia. (a) hostile (b) friendly (c) obedient (d) in debt.

CURRENT AFFAIRS PUZZLE

Fill in numbered rows according to descriptions given below. When all are correctly finished, letters in heavy rectangle will spell name familiar to all of us.

1. France, Great Britain and _____ were engaged in military operations against Egypt in 1956.

2. A team of _____ soldiers was responsible for clearing the vital waterway which had stood impassable for five months.

3. The Secretary of the Department of Defense is Neil _____.

4. The ancient land of Egypt is about the size of Texas and _____ combined.

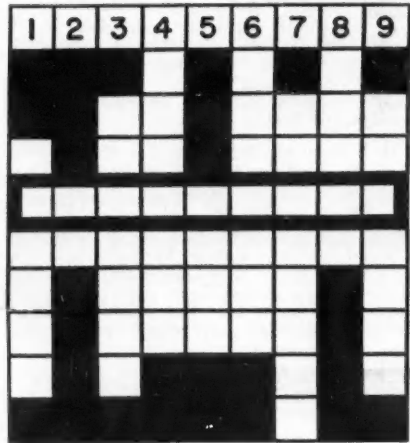
5. Retired General Lucius _____ helped in the study of the changing of our defense planning.

6. Some people feel all armed forces should be banded together in order to end inter-service _____.

7. Headquarters for all the service departments is the _____.

8. Lyndon Johnson is the senior senator from _____.

9. The largest and most modern city in Israel is _____.



Last Week

HORIZONTAL: Minnesota. VERTICAL: 1. Lima; 2. Gaither; 3. Lincoln; 4. Canada; 5. three; 6. six; 7. Gromyko; 8. neutral; 9. Cairo.



ISLANDS whose names are underlined have joined together in a political union

West Indies Federation

British Colonial Islands Form New Group

A NEW federation of British territories in the Caribbean region came into existence early this month. Known officially as "the West Indies," it includes a number of islands and island groups that were formerly governed as separate British colonies.

One well-known member of the federation is Jamaica, located just south of Cuba. Another comparatively large island is Trinidad, near the coast of Venezuela. Smaller members extend northward from Trinidad in a 600-mile arc (see map). Some tiny islands northeast of Cuba, governed as dependencies of Jamaica, are also included. (These are not marked on the map.)

The West Indies group hopes eventually to become a fully independent country, probably within the British Commonwealth of Nations. At present it remains a colonial territory of Great Britain, though granted a considerable degree of self-rule.

Governing Body

The federation is to have a 2-house legislature, consisting of senators and representatives from the different islands. This legislature will meet for the first time on April 22. Britain's Princess Margaret is scheduled to attend the meeting as special representative of her sister, Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen's permanent representative in the West Indies federation is a Governor-General, Lord Hailes.

The islanders have been given a great deal of governmental power in connection with local matters, but Great Britain will have a major voice in West Indies defenses, foreign affairs, and so on.

The federation's permanent capital is to be in Trinidad. West Indies leaders hope to build it on a site that is now leased to the United States for use as a military base. Observers still don't know what arrangements can be worked out on this subject between the West Indies group and the American government.

Not all Britain's possessions in the West Indies area have joined the new federation. Remaining outside are British Guiana, on the South American mainland; British Honduras, in Central America; the Bahama Islands; and the British portion of the Virgin Islands. It is possible that some of these territories will join later.

Members of the West Indies federa-

tion have a total land area of about 8,000 square miles—roughly equal to that of Massachusetts. The population of nearly 3,000,000 includes people of European, African, and Asian backgrounds.

Large numbers of people from India came to Trinidad, Jamaica, and neighboring islands during the 1800's to work on plantations. Their descendants still live in the Caribbean region, and so do quite a few Chinese. On Trinidad, one sees numerous Hindu temples and other signs of Indian culture.

The islands that make up the West Indies federation have had a colorful history. Some were visited by Columbus, and Trinidad still bears the name he gave it. Jamaica, about 3 centuries ago, was a favorite haunt of pirates.

Down through the years there have been many efforts to unite Britain's Caribbean lands. Certain of the islands were, in fact, ruled under a federal "constitution" in the 1700's. Alexander Hamilton, who came from the West Indies, probably had this system in mind when he helped draw up our own country's federal Constitution in 1787.

All the islands of the West Indies federation are in the tropics, and they produce such crops as sugar cane, cotton, coffee, cocoa, rice, and coconuts. In many cases, too, they have dense forests that yield mahogany and other hardwoods. Some of the islands—including Jamaica—have large deposits of bauxite, from which aluminum is obtained.

Trinidad Has Oil

Trinidad, like nearby Venezuela, is an important oil producer. On that same island there is a large lake of asphalt—Pitch Lake—which has furnished paving material for streets in many parts of the world.

Another "export" of Trinidad is calypso music. Islanders often use steel drums, fashioned from old but brightly painted oil barrels, to accompany their rhythmic calypso chants.

Living standards and economic conditions in the West Indies vary from place to place. Large numbers of the people, however, are extremely poor. As a whole, the region needs considerable help—from Britain or from other nations—if it is to become stable and prosperous.

—By TOM MYER

News Quiz

Defense Department

1. Summarize the 2 opposing views on where the U. S. stands in the missile armament race with Russia.

2. Tell something about how our armed forces have been directed, and under what departments, during most of our history.

3. What is the general setup of our military administration now? Name the military departments.

4. Explain the work of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

5. What recommendations are being made for changing the Joint Chiefs system?

6. Give conflicting opinions concerning proposals for reorganizing management of our military administration.

7. How does Congress seem to feel about granting large additional sums of money for building more missiles as weapons?

Discussion

1. Do you think we should begin an all-out effort, as though we were at war, to develop missiles for defense? Why, or why not?

2. Would a reorganization of management and planning in the armed services be a wise or unwise step to take? Give reasons for your answer.

Egypt Under Nasser

1. Trace developments of the last 2 years regarding the Suez Canal.

2. Describe the geography of Egypt.

3. How do most Egyptians make a living?

4. Tell how Nasser came into power, and the steps he has taken to improve living conditions.

5. How does the proposed new dam at Aswan figure in Nasser's plans?

6. What moves by Nasser have disturbed western leaders?

7. Describe Egypt's relations with the United States.

8. What differing views are advanced as to the possibility of checking Nasser's swing toward Russia?

Discussion

1. What do you think of Nasser's prospects of making his country a strong, modern nation? Explain.

2. Do you believe our government can—and should—do anything at this time to curb rising Soviet influence in Egypt? Give reasons for your answer.

Miscellaneous

1. What 2 events made news in Antarctica recently?

2. Why is the United States concerned over Russia's stepped-up foreign program?

3. Tell something about the background of Egypt's President Nasser.

4. What important legislative duties does Senator Lyndon Johnson have?

5. How are members of Congress elected?

6. Briefly describe the new West Indies federation.

7. What proposals did President Eisenhower make to Congress in his State of the Union message? Which of these do you feel are the most important?

8. How are the Russians trying to gain a foothold in the Western Hemisphere? What action do you think the United States might take to offset this communist tactic?

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